

Business Roundtable News



Governor Proposes Budget Measures To Reduce Waste and Save Landfill Space

Governor Carcieri's 2005 Budget includes major strategies to increase recycling and extend the life of the Central Landfill: a \$1 per ton surcharge for commercial trash disposal and a \$9.34 per ton increase for municipal trash disposal in communities that recycle less than 20% of their trash.

The \$1 per ton increase on commercial trash deposited at the Central Landfill would be used by DEM to enhance compliance inspections at waste management facilities and to implement a self-inspection and certification program to increase recycling in the commercial sector. Although it is not known precisely how much commercial recycling occurs in Rhode Island, there is significant potential for increasing the level of recycling in the business sector. The Department has drafted the new approach to commercial recycling to replace the existing commercial recycling and reporting system, which has proven costly and impractical to enforce.

Starting January 1, 2006, municipalities that do not achieve a 20% recycling rate would see tipping fees rise from \$32 per ton to \$41.34 per ton. Presently 12 of the 39 cities and towns meet the 20% recycling rate. The proposed change to the municipal tip fee structure is designed to encourage waste diversion measures such as pay-as-you-throw, automated collection systems and enforcement.

Both budget initiatives are consistent with proposed waste reduction policies in the draft Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Working group members are reviewing the draft plan which is scheduled go before the State Technical Committee for adoption by the end of 2005.



Communities Recycling 20% Or More

Barrington	Newport
Burrillville	North Kingstown
Charlestown	North Smithfield
East Greenwich	Richmond
Exeter	Smithfield
Jamestown	Warwick

Draft Listing of Rhode Island Waters Impaired by Pollution

Adapted from DEM Press Release

DEM has released the draft 2004 list of impaired waters (303(d) list). The list shows that 163 waterbodies in Rhode Island are polluted with 234 impairments such as bacteria (pathogens), metals, excess nutrients, etc. In accordance with federal Clean Water Act requirements, water quality restoration plans (Total Maximum Daily Loads or TMDLs), must be developed for each waterbody identified as impaired by pollution. The 303(d) list prioritizes development of restoration plans and water quality monitoring and restoration planning efforts in Rhode Island.

Copies of the draft list are available on DEM's website, www.state.ri.us/dem by clicking on "Water Quality" under "Topics", or by calling Carol MacAndrew of the Office of Water Resources at 222-3961 ext. 7220. The draft list is also available at DEM's Office of Water Resources.

The Office of Water Resources will accept comments on the draft 2004 303(d) list through March 8, 2005. Comments can be mailed to Elizabeth Scott, Deputy Chief of Water Quality and Standards, DEM/Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908, or they can be submitted via e-mail to elizabeth.scott@dem.ri.gov.

Watershed News

Submitted by Fred Presley

Greenwich Bay Buffer Restoration Project Update

The Greenwich Bay Buffer Restoration Project, funded by US Forest Service, is identifying priority Riparian and Coastal buffer restoration opportunities throughout Greenwich Bay and Buckeye Brook Watersheds. During the summer URI grad-student Michael Mule completed the photo-interpretation work for the project and did a first cut prioritization. The Department has convened a steering committee to review the information. The Sustainable Watersheds Office is identifying property ownership of potential restoration parcels. Local watershed groups will contact property owners to determine whether they might have an interest in restoring their buffers. Restoration funding is currently available to private landowners.



Buffer areas like the one on the left can be improved by landshaping, installation of rain gardens, bio-retention basins and/or natural buffer plantings to help abate nutrient pollution. The photo in the center is an example of a bio-retention basin. A cross-section view of the basin is shown on the right.

Summer Jobs Available at DEM

The Department of Environmental Management is continuing to recruit applicants now for both its 2005 seasonal employment program and its minority internship program.

Information about DEM and all summer positions, as well as a downloadable application form is available online at DEM's website at www.state.ri.us/dem. Applicants can also visit or call DEM's Office of Human Resources at 235 Promenade Street, Room 350, Providence, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., or call 222-2775, ext. 4609. The number for DEM's telecommunication device for speech and hearing impaired callers is 222-4462.

South Shore Coastal Ponds Water Quality Restoration Plan Project

DEM and the Salt Ponds Coalition held a public kick-off meeting for the South Shore Coastal Ponds Water Quality Restoration Plan Project on Tuesday, February 8th at 7:30 p.m. at the Cross Mills Public Library in Charlestown. The project will identify the primary pollution sources to Green Hill and Ninigret Ponds and develop an abatement strategy. DEM has hired Horsley Witten Group of Sandwich, MA to carry out the project. This effort will serve as a demonstration for future efforts on the remaining south shore coastal ponds as well as other impaired waters in the state. The project has been funded through RIDEM's Nonpoint Source Funding (EPA 319) and CRMC's Nonpoint Funding (NOAA).

Blackstone Watershed Decentralized Wastewater Demonstration Project

DEM, in partnership with the State of Massachusetts, will receive approximately \$1.35 million dollars in funding to develop decentralized wastewater projects that also promote smart growth redevelopment. The Sustainable Watersheds Office has received pre-proposals from four Blackstone Watersheds communities for the Blackstone Watershed Decentralized Wastewater Demonstration Project. The community with the best proposal will be asked to develop a detailed proposal describing the decentralized wastewater system, for submittal to EPA to receive approximately \$600,000 in funding. The pre-proposal review committee will make their decision sometime in February.

Narrow River Stormwater Abatement Project

DEM and the Town of Narragansett are reviewing consultant proposals for the Narrow River Stormwater Abatement Project. The Narrow River TMDL identified twelve stormwater outfalls as the sources for approximately 93% of the bacterial load to the Narrow River. Three of those identified outfalls are currently under design and construction for Best Management Practices. The remaining 9 outfalls will be examined with 10% design completed for each and 75% construction designs for the 4 highest priority outfalls. The project has been funded through RIDEM's Nonpoint Source Funding (EPA 319) with match from the Town of Narragansett. A consultant will be selected within the next month.

For information about the watershed projects: Contact Fred Presley at 222-3434 ext. 4417 or email Fred.Presley@dem.ri.gov.

Narragansett Bay & Watershed News

Adapted from the 2/8/05 Narragansett Bay & Watershed Update

DEM is making progress on over 40 elements in the Governor's Narragansett Bay and Watershed Commission Report. The following is an update on some of the major DEM activities of the last few months.

- The Governor's 2006 budget proposal includes \$983,000 for DEM to implement priority monitoring strategies to: expand the fixed-station network; restore monitoring on large rivers (which had been suspended in 2002); conduct assessments of coastal embayments, coves and ponds on a rotating basis; provide partial support for dissolved oxygen surveys in the upper bay; and, institute a rotating basin approach to monitoring freshwater rivers and streams.
- With the Rhode Island Watershed and Marine Monitoring Collaborative, DEM completed a revised draft statewide water monitoring strategy in January, which is posted at http://www.ci.uri.edu/Projects/RI-Monitoring/Docs/DEM_WQ_Mon_Jan05_05.pdf. The Rhode Island Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team met on February 10 and asked their ad hoc working group to develop a draft process to review the report and prioritize the recommendations for final approval.
- Greenwich Bay Seaweed Removal and Disposal: After reviewing results of DEM and City of Warwick seaweed removal and disposal effort last summer, the parties concluded that earlier action and new equipment are needed to prevent a recurrence of last year's seaweed problems. DEM would need \$150,000 for a skimmer and an additional staff person to avoid a recurrence.
- Nutrient & Bacteria Reductions: DEM held a public hearing on Tuesday, February 8 on draft RI Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) permit modifications for establishing new or revised nitrogen limits for four treatment facilities: East Providence, NBC Fields Point, Warren, and Woonsocket. DEM is also evaluating temporary nitrogen reductions from facilities in Warren, East Providence, East Greenwich and Cranston. DEM also prepared a nutrient management/eutrophication control plan that is posted on the DEM website: <http://www.state.ri.us/dem/pubs/nutrient.pdf>
- Cesspool Legislation Resubmitted: The Governor has resubmitted legislation that calls for the phase-out of all high-risk cesspools over a 15-year period. The legislation targets cesspools located in close proximity to surface waters, groundwater or wells.
- Storm Water Management Planning: DEM developed a prioritized schedule for reviewing municipal Storm Water Management Plans and began review of 15 plans in watersheds where TMDLs have been drafted, approved or identified as having priority beaches impacted by stormwater. All 15 reviews will be completed by the end of February.



Decomposing seaweed on Greenwich Bay shores caused noxious odors and disposal problems in the Summer of 2004.

DEM To Participate in Rhode Island Home Show

Staff from the DEM wetlands and ISDS programs will be at the 2004 Rhode Island Home Show to answer questions on the permitting process, as well as provide guidance on where to get answers or other information on other topics relevant to all DEM departments.

The Home Show draws over 30,000 people over a five-day period, providing an excellent venue to interact with a broad segment of the population and provide important environmental information to attendees.

The Home Show is at the Convention Center and is open Wed, Thurs. and Friday, March 2-4 from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. , Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, March 6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information on DEM at the Home Show, please contact Susan Ely at 401-222-4700 Ext. 7205.

- The Department is developing regulations for awarding funds from the 2004 Clean Water Bond. A portion of bond funds may be used for storm water control projects. The target for an in-house review draft of the regulations is 2/28/05. A request for proposal for projects will be issued once regulations are finalized.
- TMDLs are moving forward for the Blackstone, Woonasquatucket, & Kickemuit Rivers. Based on existing resource levels the TMDL's are projected to be completed on the following schedule: Woonasquatucket 12/31/05, Kickemuit 12/31/05 and Blackstone 12/31/07.
- Boater Discharge: In June 2006, owners of boats operating or mooring in RI waters for more than seven days — except open boats without sleeping accommodations and commercial vessels — will be required to obtain and display a no discharge certificate decal from DEM. The decals will be issued from certification agents, e.g. marina operators, based upon an inspection to make sure boats are in compliance with the no-discharge law. DEM will submit legislation in 2005 to repeal the exception for commercial vessels. DEM will also convene an internal working group (Water, Enforcement, Boat Registration) to develop the sticker enforcement program, and then coordinate with harbor masters and others affected by the bill.
- Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) Projects: The Narragansett Bay Commission CSO project in Providence (the main spine tunnel) and construction of the Woonasquatucket River Interceptor Relief are about 10-12 months behind schedule. The revised completion date is approximately 3/07. Bids for the Tunnel Pump Station will be opened soon, and construction is scheduled to be complete by 6/08.

Newport awarded a contract to develop first phase of their CSO Control Plan on Nov. 10, 2004. The Phase I Report will be submitted to DEM by Oct. 1, 2005.

New Regulatory Agenda Posted

Submitted by Elizabeth Stone

DEM has released its January 2005 Regulatory Agenda. The agenda, released in January and June of each year, outlines regulatory actions and topics that the Department will propose or address in the next 6 months. It also includes a list of regulations that were finalized in the previous six months.

Some of the regulatory developments expected in the next six months include:

- New Regulations Governing the Care of Animals
- Amendments to the Hazardous Waste Regulations
- New regulations to implement the 2004 Open Space and Clean Water Bond approved November, 2004
- New Regulations Regarding Expedited Permitting for a Limited Number of DEM Issued Permits

The agenda is available on the DEM web site at: <http://www.state.ri.us/DEM/pubs/regs/regagn05.pdf>.

2005 Land & Water Conservation Summit On Tap

The Land & Water Conservation Summit will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2005 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The annual conference of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, Rhode Island Rivers Council and Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions will be held at the University of Rhode Island's Memorial Student Union, Kingston Campus and will include over 20 workshops on environmental protection and restoration.

The Summit will feature speakers such as Conservancy landscape directors Kevin Essington, director, Pawcatuck Borderlands Program and Terry Sullivan, Director of Conservation Finance and Policy. Other summit highlights include a General Assembly Update by Senator Susan Sosnowski and Representative Eileen Naughton and Keynote Speaker Peter Forbes on "The Soul of the Land".

For more information, contact Meg Kerr at megkerr@cox.net or Rupert Friday at RFriday@tnc.org or (401) 331-7110, x39. For the complete conference announcement, visit http://www.ci.uri.edu/RI BayTeam/Docs/Summit_Program%20March_12-05.pdf.

Scholarships Available For Renewable Energy and Green Building Conference

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) will hold a conference and trade show for renewable energy and green building professionals, Building Energy '05, in Boston, March 15-17, 2005. The conference offers information and networking opportunities for professionals working on green building design and clean energy generation and will include 70 sessions, approximately a dozen workshops, and an expanded trade show.

The Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund is offering \$100 scholarships on a first-come, first-serve basis to first-time Conference attendees who live and work in Rhode Island. For more information or to register and apply for the scholarship, please visit www.be05.org.

Join the 2005 Earth Day Festivities

Earth Day Rhode Island, the Department of Environmental Management and Roger Williams Park Zoo have once again teamed up to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day April 22, 2005 with activities throughout the month of April. Events include community cleanups around the state and special programs throughout Conservation Week, April 18 through April 22 at Roger Williams Park Zoo. The annual Earth Day Festival, on Saturday, April 23, will take place at Roger Williams Park Zoo 10:30 am - 3:30 pm.

Last year, Rhode Island businesses helped make Earth Day an overwhelming success. With their support Earth Day Rhode Island conducted over 100 neighborhood clean-ups with over 9,100 volunteers in all 39 Rhode Island communities. More than 11,700 visitors came to Roger Williams Park Zoo to celebrate Conservation Week and the Earth Day Festival and learned about environmental issues and stewardship throughout Rhode Island.

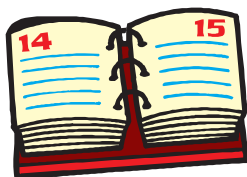


In 2004, Conservation Week and the Earth Day festival drew over 11,700 people to Roger Williams Park Zoo.

Here are just a few ways your business can get involved:

- **Become an Earth Day Sponsor.** Your sponsorship will make it possible to spread the message of environmental awareness, foster participation in community cleanups and support scholarships for students entering environmental studies. Earth Day Rhode Island offers a variety of sponsorships depending on the level at which your company is able to give. Each sponsorship includes name recognition in education and outreach efforts, appreciation awards and website advertising.
- **Organize a Neighborhood Cleanup.** Many companies find that organizing a cleanup is a good way to show your neighbors that you care about the community and to foster team spirit among employees. DEM provides cleanup bags and gloves to organizations that organize cleanups.
- **Show Off Your Company or Product at the Rhode Island Earth Day Festival.** The Rhode Island Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 23 offers an excellent venue to promote your company's environmental products, programs or stewardship to the thousands of Rhode Islanders who attend each year. The Festival features environmental exhibits and demonstrations, food, music and good old-fashioned family fun.

If you are interested in aligning your business with a cleaner and greener Rhode Island, please call Terri Bisson at 222-3434, extension 4402 or Jeff Fornaro at 949-2187.



Upcoming Events/Meetings

March 2

Public Hearing on Draft Comprehensive RI Forest Resources Management Plan, DEM, 235 Promenade St., Providence, 2PM, Room 300. For more information call Bruce Payton at 568-2248..

March 2-6

RI Home Show, Convention Center, Providence, 2-10 PM Wed-Fri, 10AM-10 PM Saturday, and 10AM-6PM on Sunday.

March 3

Greenhouse Gas Stakeholder Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade St, Providence, 9 AM.

Business Roundtable - DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade St, Providence, 3:30-5 PM

March 8

Earth Day RI Meeting – DEM, Room 340C, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, 5:30 PM

March 9

Underground Storage Tank Environmental Results Program Training, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade St., Providence, 4-8 PM.

March 12

Land & Water Conservation Summit, URI Memorial Union, Kingston Campus, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM. For information contact Greg Gerritt at 331-0529.

March 14

Public Hearing re: Proposed Changes to the RI Marine Fisheries Regulations, URI Graduate School of Oceanography, Corless Auditorium, Soth Ferry Rd., Narragansett, 6 PM. For information contact Janice Thurston at 783-8841.

March 15-17

Building Energy 05 Conference and Trade Show, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA. For information contact Annissa Sanborn at 413-774-6051 ext. 30

March 16

Combined Heat and Power and Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group 10 AM. For more information contact Doug McVay at 222-2808 ext. 7011

March 17

Greenhouse Gas Transportation Working Group Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade St, Providence, 9 AM.

March 22

Underground Storage Tank Environmental Results Program Training, Stedman Government Center, Tower Hill Rd., Wakefield, Supreme Court Hearing Room, 4-8 PM.

March 31

Underground Storage Tank Environmental Results Program Training, DEM, 3RD Floor Cafeteria, 235 Promenade St., Providence, 4-8 PM.

April 12

Earth Day RI Meeting – DEM, Room 340C, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, 5:30 PM

April 18-22

Conservation Week, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI, 11 AM- 3 PM

April 23

Earth Day Festival, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI, 10:30 AM- 3:30 PM

May 5

Business Roundtable Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade St, Providence, 3:30-5 PM

May 19

Environmental Roundtable Meeting, DEM, Room 300, 235 Promenade St, Providence, 3-5 PM